



## ***Press Release***

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**Texas State Library and Archives Commission**

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# **Missing Lamar resignation letter returned to Texas State Library and Archives Commission**

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**AUSTIN, Texas** - The Texas State Library and Archives Commission (TSLAC) accepted the return of the 1836 resignation letter by Mirabeau Buonaparte Lamar, as Secretary of War, to the Texas President and Cabinet, back into its archives on Wednesday afternoon.

After recognizing that the letter was reported as a missing object on the Texas State Library and Archives Commission's missing materials list, the family members who stated that they are direct descendents of Lamar, wanted to return the letter. State Archivist Chris LaPlante accepted the letter and honored the family members' request to remain anonymous.

"The family wanted to make sure that it was returned and secure for others to cherish for its historical content and value," said LaPlante. "We thank them for their value of history and the protection of it. The document has been appraised and it is indeed the Lamar resignation letter and has now returned as a part of our large collection of other valuable Lamar documents."

As the second president of the Republic of Texas from 1838 – 1841, Lamar was considered less flamboyant than its first president, Sam Houston, but is considered to have a direct historical impact on the actual documentation of Texas history as a province of Mexico, and as a Republic. While a participant in historical events that shaped Texas, Lamar documented in detail the early history of Texas in his official and personal papers, private collection of historical documents, copy documents, and abundant notes. The 'Mirabeau Buonaparte Lamar Papers' provides one of the largest bodies of materials and is a major resource of study during his era.

Lamar is credited with proposals for a national bank and the foundation of a free statewide public education system. He also painted and wrote poetry for publication. Lamar founded three newspapers and attempted histories of Mexico and Texas as well as biographies of prominent personalities, including Stephen Fuller Austin, Antonio López de Santa Anna, Francisco Xavier Mina, Manuel Lorenzo Justiniano de Zavala and José Bernardo Maximiliano Gutiérrez de Lara.

"We are so grateful to the Lamar descendents for returning his letter to its rightful home," said Peggy D. Rudd, director and librarian. "This handwritten letter is an important piece of Texas history and, as such, belongs to the people of Texas."

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Records show that the resignation letter was in the possession of the Texas State Library and Archives Commission but came up missing as part of a nationwide theft binge that happened during the 50s, 60s and 70s.

“Today, we have stringent security measures in place to help prevent such thefts from happening,” said LaPlante.

This is the second group of valuable historical documents to be returned to TSLAC this year.

Earlier this year, with the help of the Office of the Attorney General of Texas, TSLAC won a case against the Irma Lou Wilcox estate, reclaiming an original handwritten letter, dated October 29, 1835, by James Bowie and James Fannin to Stephen F. Austin. It contained a report of the Battle of Concepción, one of the first engagements in the Texas Revolution against Mexico. The other document reclaimed in this case was a printed broadside dated February 28, 1836. It is entitled “Meeting of the Citizens of San Felipe,” which called to arms the Texas colonists against Mexico. It is one of the first printings of an historic letter from William Barret Travis.

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**ABOUT THE TEXAS STATE LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES COMMISSION**

*TSLAC helps Texans find the information they seek. The people of Texas utilize TSLAC services and programs to effectively use information and materials that improve their lives, the lives of their families, and their communities. Since 1909, TSLAC has carried out a commitment of making information work for all Texans by providing history and genealogical services, federal and state government documents, electronic research, and library services to Texans of all ages who are unable to read standard print material due to visual, physical, or reading disabilities. For more information, go to <http://www.tsl.state.tx.us> or email [pio@tsl.state.tx.us](mailto:pio@tsl.state.tx.us).*

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"M B Lamar to President. Resignation as Secretary of War," May 26, 1836. State Department Box 36, Accession # 1905/3.2 - Army Affairs. Archives and Information Services Division, Texas State Library and Archives Commission, scanned December 2008.

#31  
War Department 26 May 1836.

To the President and Members  
of the Cabinet -

Gentlemen

The duties of my Office are incompatible with my love of tranquility and ease. The responsibilities I bear not; but the labor and attendant perplexities are greater than I willing to encounter. As there are many gentlemen advantageously known to the public who will be pleased to accept the situation which I occupy, I feel myself at liberty to return to domestic quiet. I cannot retire however without expressing my thanks to the President and Cabinet for the honor conferred, and at the same time bearing testimony to their worth as individuals and to their integrity as public functionaries. Hoping that private and official confidence may still prevail in the Cabinet, I beg leave to tender my resignation as Secretary of War, and as a personal friend to each member of the body to subscribe myself

Most respectfully yours  
Mirabeau B. Lamar.